

## The Ferguson Library



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To: Senator Beth Bye, Chair, Appropriations Committee  
and State of Connecticut Appropriations Committee Members

I am very concerned with several aspects of Governor Malloy's proposed budget cuts. While I understand that cuts are necessary and perhaps it is important to consider approaching the budget in new and innovative ways, I don't want the state to abandon strategies that are working.

The Governor's budget proposes to eliminate funding for the Connecticut Library Consortium (CLC), Grants to Public Libraries, and the Connecticut Humanities Council. These cuts are particularly devastating as the Connecticut State Library will lose valuable funding (\$500,000) from the federal government. I am even more concerned that legislation has been introduced that would actually repeal the statutes that authorize these programs.

The Connecticut Library Consortium (CLC) provides over 800 Connecticut libraries - public, K-12 school, college/university, and "special" - with cost savings and professional development through its cooperative purchasing and educational programs. Beyond providing valuable continuing education, the Connecticut Library Consortium helps The Ferguson Library save real money. By using the economies of scale, CLC is able to negotiate significant discounts for books and databases. So instead of receiving a discount of 15% to 30%, The Ferguson Library receives a 46% discount on print titles, and discounted subscriptions to more than 50 databases that no library in the state could afford without cooperative buying power. These online resources provide access to primary source materials essential to any library, and in Stamford alone these tools are used 1,400 times per month, on average. In FY13-14 Consortium-negotiated prices resulted in our saving almost \$195,000 not only books, media and supplies, but also on early literacy resources (Scholastic, Tumblebooks) and job skills resources (JobNow) important for our most needy residents.

If the provisions in Governor's Bill No. 942, AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GOVERNOR CONCERNING EDUCATION that repeal these programs are enacted, new legislation would be required before these programs could ever be funded again.

I urge you to reconsider the Governor's recommendation.

Sincerely,

Alice S. Knapp  
President, The Ferguson Library